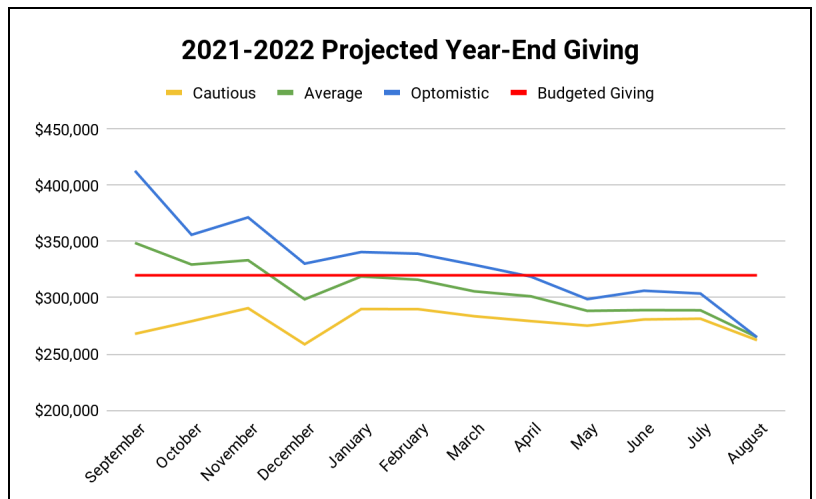


# 2022-2023 Grace Lutheran Budget Narrative

## MOMENTUM AMIDST ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

The Council has monitored giving and spending closely over the past year.

- As more people have been returning to church, we have seen stronger General Fund giving patterns. We **project a 5% increase in our General Fund Giving** over last year!
- Through the first 5 months of the fiscal year, we projected to be very close to our budgeted \$320,000 in giving. The sudden rise in inflation along with volatility in the markets softened giving during the spring. However, we are seeing the congregation respond with stronger giving in June and July.
- Therefore, even though we are projecting giving to be about \$290,000 for 2021-2022, we feel confident that the congregation has the momentum and ability to step up to answer the call for next year as we continue to expand our ministry. We are challenging the congregation to commit to giving **\$330,000 during 2022-2023**.



## EXPANDING MINISTRY

Overall, the proposed budget continues to support our ministry at a base level that ensures all of our most important ministry programs will continue, which includes many of the new ministries begun during COVID. Here are a few other highlights:

- **New Staff Members – New Energy!** While we have had some transition on the staff, the Council feels confident that we have a renewed energy with the addition of the new Office Manager & Communications Coordinator plus another great Vicar! Additionally, we will be able to continue Deacon Stacey's expanded interim role to cover some of the planning and organizing of Youth and Family Ministries.
- **Online AND In-Person!** With in-person and online ministry opportunities, we are seeing members and friends becoming more deeply engaged in ministry. We have created an environment where in-person and online participation keep people engaged more regularly in worship, studies and meetings.
- **LSA continues to thrive!** Despite the challenges that COVID presented, our LSA group continues to be one of the strongest Campus Ministries in North Carolina and the ELCA. This year, 11 students volunteered their Spring Break to do service projects and an astounding 14 LSA Students committed to serve on Camp Staff this summer!
- **Debt Free and Updating!** Thanks to the Growing Grace Campaign, we are debt-free and are finally making progress updating all our facilities. We believe that we have a good handle on the needed projects in the future and are working to time out those updates so that they do not all hit at the same time.
- **Renewing and Building New Community Partnerships!** Over the past year, we have reengaged several of our community partners and opened our facilities to several new partners. This past year we have hosted a group of Catholics worshipping on Saturday evening, Mountain Home Music, AA & NA, PEO, Hearts of Hospitality, Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross Blood Drives, etc.! We love sharing our space with our community!

## 100 Years – Only Just the Beginning!

The Council is excited about the ministries that are returning, being reimaged, and for all the ways that God is using our congregation to spread the good news of God's unconditional love! As we look to celebrate our 100th Anniversary on May 28th, 2023, we feel like the congregation is positioning itself for even more amazing ministry in the future!

The Council is asking the congregation to:

- **Pray** for the congregation and Council.
- **Celebrate** the 100th Anniversary!
- **Respond** with thanksgiving and generosity!

The Council will commit to:

- **Pray** with and for the congregation.
- Continue to **pursue other income opportunities**.
- **Monitor and manage** our expanding ministry.

Your Council is excited to continue to expand our mission to

***Share God's love so that all are served and supported.***